

## **EDITOR'S SYNOPSIS OF THE CONFERENCE**

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Lenora Oftedahl's emails to the IAMSLIC list were consulted as a resource to substantiate the comments of the editor. Follow her emails closely.

### **Monday, October 8**

The opening reception took place Sunday evening in a room overlooking the pool. It was to be outside but the clouds and wind prompted the move indoors. Over a glass of wine, some delectable eats, we chatted with old and new friends. The "mixer" was a book exchange which was to give us a chance to share books mentioning our locale or institute. The "problem" appeared when the folks exchanging books stopped to actually chat with the exchangee and there were still names in the envelope awaiting their chance to share books when the food and beverage and time were gone. A nice evening. For those of us who sat through the 4-hour-long Executive Board meeting, it was a satisfying ending to the day.

Monday morning got off to a strong start with a welcome from Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, director of Mote Marine Lab. He covered a range of topics from history of Mote to things to do in Sarasota to the problems facing research and the oceans of the world.

The theme of the morning was "coral reefs." Dr. Kim Richie was our first invited speaker and her specialty is coral research in Florida and the Caribbean. She talked about the microbial influences on corals, both positive and negative. Her best point is that bacteria are misunderstood but are integral and beneficial to every biological community.

The next presentation was to be Dr. Chris Muhando but he couldn't make it and hadn't sent his paper to his co-author so that talk was postponed and Guillermina Cosulich along with Irene Beltran filled in with a report on the Latin American regional group. At the end of that report we went right into the first business meeting.

The regional reports as well as the president's report, and the treasurer's report are posted on the IAMSLIC website. The major discussion at the business meeting was about the restructuring of the regional groups. Stephanie Haas gave a brief update on the Aquatic Commons.

Returning to the meeting room after a lunch highlighted by conch chowder, we entered the afternoon sessions themed “regional groups and global activities.” Cathy Norton led off with a discussion on building an open access digital library of legacy collections which has become the Biodiversity Heritage Library (<http://bhl.si.edu>). She showed a short video on the Encyclopedia of Life (<http://eol.org>) which is a developing resource along the lines of wikipedia but whose goal is to have a page for each of 1.8 million species.

Cathy was followed by Marcia Croy VanWely and Pam Olson reminding us about Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and presenting their new virtual library within the WAVES catalogue ([www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)). If you look at the report series, you can link to items in the virtual library. You can also link from items in the WAVES catalog. The virtual library has garnered the coveted DFO Prix d’Excellance.

This year a new feature was tested. An hour was set aside for people to peruse the posters that members had assembled. 13 posters plus one from last year were on display. While wandering about with your choice of key lime pie or chocolate cake (both darn tasty) the attendees reviewed the posters and talked to the creators. We then got to vote on our favorite poster and the winner received a complimentary registration to the 2008 Conference. The inaugural winner was Joyce Shaw of the Gulf Coast Research Lab with her poster on the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Mississippi Gulf Coast Libraries.

The last talk of the day was Sidney Holt addressing us on the relationship of the management of documents over time. He is always fascinating.

Sunset on the ocean is always lovely and relaxing and our Monday ended with a sunset cruise and I don’t have the words to describe it – use your imagination.

## **Tuesday, October 9**

Yum, bagels and cream cheese for breakfast with a fruit finish. The theme for the morning was “Capturing the shadows... grey literature, repositories, harvesters and digital archives.” Peter Brueggeman led off and he obviously wasn’t awake as he tried to adjust the microphone to his mouth and moved a light there instead and illuminated his chin nicely – I sure his talk will illuminate many and make up for the bright start. Peter was the lead off in a talk on development of small digitization projects. He was followed by Janet Webster and Barb Butler. Each described how they got started in digitizing and how they are progressing. The bottom line is that anyone can do it; you just need to get started. Pick some documents that are in the public domain or for which you can get copyright permission, are hopefully are in high demand and give it a go! There are some

standards you might want to consider. You could also email the IAMSILIC list of any of these three directly to ask questions to ease your fear. In the words of a Nike commercial: Just Do It! There was a brief discussion regarding copyright acquisition. Most start with the Stanford University Determinator and then make local decisions based on institutional vagaries.

Edna Nyika followed the West Coast Three with a report on her experience in developing a repository. The cost of scientific journals is often beyond the funding of libraries in Africa – heck, they are beyond my institution! – so they needed a solution to make the information they have and create available to all other libraries. Result is OceanDocs (<http://iodeweb1.vliz.be/odin>). One of the interesting results is the recognition of the need to educate authors on their rights in relationship to copyright.

Short break to get some coffee and bid on some of the cool things in the Guin auction.

Next up was Priscilla Caplan of the FCLA. Her topic was Digital Preservation: the Test of Time. What happens if it is 2020 and you want to listen to some whale songs that had been recorded in 2007? Some thoughts on preservation regarding: availability, identity, understandability, fixity, viability, renderability, authenticity,

Digital provenance = authenticity

format strategies = renderability

media management = viability

secure storage = fixity

documentation = understandability

description = identity

selection/capture = availability

Priscilla had a picture of the common housefly on her contact page and the significance is that the lifespan of the common housefly is 40 days and the average longevity of a webpage is 40days.

Following Priscilla was Janet Webster who presented for Brian Voss a report on the publication program of PICES which is an organization of Pacific Rim nations interested in fisheries. Last year we heard the possible connection between PICES and IAMSILIC. As part of that, Brian and Janet got involved in making recommendations to PICES on their publications. They looked at who is collecting and making PICES publications available. It was quite an interesting commentary which indicated that there hasn't been a consistent distribution and an even more inconsistent indexing which is probably a result of the first finding. Janet would like to convince them to deposit to the Aquatic Commons. Bottom line for both institutions is who is going to do the work? Note of

interest is a software that can be freely downloaded called Publish-or-Perish to search (?) Google Scholar.

Linda Pikula was the last speaker of the morning and talked about how frustrating working within the US federal government to develop a repository to serve all NOAA (and other government libraries).

After Linda's talk we moved to the Selby Public Library which has a saltwater aquarium arch that is the entrance to the children's room and some cool sculptures hanging from the ceiling. Lovely facility. We had lunch in the auditorium – quiche, green salad, fruit salad and cookies – where we spent the afternoon. The theme continued from the morning and after a welcome by the director, Vera Neumann-Wood and Sarabeth Kalajian of the Sarasota county Library System, Stephanie Haas and Fred Merceur brought us up-to-date on the Aquatic Commons.

The Aquatic Commons is (from the IAMSLIC website): The Aquatic Commons digital repository is an online, growing collection of published and unpublished research, organizational publications, and other scholarly materials contributed by marine/aquatic researchers, librarians, and their institutions. It is funded and directed by the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers.

The Aquatic Commons repository is now accepting submissions from IAMSLIC members and their partners. The official URL is: <http://aquacomm.fcla.edu> . The repository is OAI compliant and records are being harvested by [AVANO](#), the official harvester of IAMSLIC.

The Commons went live in August 2007. The Aquatic Commons Board has an email address: [AquaticCommons@gmail.com](mailto:AquaticCommons@gmail.com)

Fred talked about AVANO, the harvester developed by Ifremer (<http://www.ifremer.fr/avano>). He covered the data points the harvester looks for and/or requires.

Now that we know everything about the Aquatic Commons and AVANO we took a moment to pose for the group photo and now hope to stay awake through some vendor updates.

### **Wednesday, October 10, 2007**

The morning theme for Wednesday was “changes in the way we work.” Peter Fritzler, as the moderator, introduced the first speaker, Peter Brueggemann, by telling him that there was no light on the podium to adjust. Good one Fritzler! Brueggeman talked about how he turned a map and chart librarian position into an oral history collector. Scripps has a long history in marine science and peter focused on women scientists, staff SIO decided to make collection as written transcripts rather than as an AV copy and Peter identified the reasoning behind that decision. The interviewees were chosen by the Archivist. They included a copyright agreement and a list of questions. Interesting.

Peter was followed by Elizabeth Connor of The Citadel who gave an over view of Library 2.0 and showed us a number of websites – mostly blogs and wikis - that are science specific. Good thoughts on how librarians might be involved.

Barbara Schmidt took us into the break with tales of two libraries with completely different regulations joining together under one umbrella. Her presentation was lively and she incorporated some hilarious cartoons. It was really informative and fun.

The morning was finished off by a series of speakers sharing their experiences with building new and remodeling existing library spaces. Always a test!

The afternoon sessions were themed “the ever-changing world around us.” Lead off speaker was Dr Danielle Stanek of the Florida Department of Health who gave an informative talk on the surveillance of water and shore birds of Florida in the quest to identify new occurrences of avian influenza.

Next up was Joyce Shaw with pictures and tales of survival and recovery from hurricane and storm surge damage. One doesn’t really know the overwhelming sense of loss and the determination it takes to recoup.

Joyce was followed by a panel of experts inspiring us with the pride of membership in IAMSLIC. This was accomplished by Lisa Raymond calling for submissions to the IAMSLIC archive, Steve Watkins gave a brief description of services available to members, Kristen Metzger reminding us this is a volunteer organization and other important membership details, Janet Webster highlighted some of the current projects and future goals, and finally Joan Parker presented the calendar of events in an association year. Joan and Kristen then announced a first ever lifetime membership which was

extended to Steve Watkins. Joan had collected and displayed a few choice photos of Steve and he was presented with a plaque. He really deserves the recognition.

To finish the formal portion of the conference day we were treated to two science talks on mangroves. Dr Eric Milbrandt had some interesting findings on mangrove population response to climate change – including hurricane interference – and human altered landscapes. The second presentation in this package was Hesham Abd-El Monsef who showed us slides of how they are tracking mangroves and the best environments for mangroves on the Red Sea through the use of remote sensing and geological data.

The day ended with a fabulous buffet and dancing at the Mote Marine Lab. We had the opportunity to stroll through the Mote Aquarium – including the marine mammal building with the manatees and marine turtles – with a glass of wine and munching goldfish shaped crackers! How cool is that?

#### **Thursday, October 11**

The last day of the conference and the meeting room has a declining population but many of us are still here and alert. Well mostly alert...

First on the docket was a very interesting report on the conservation biology and tracking of the elusive sawfish by Tonya Wiley of Mote Marine Lab. Sawfish are mostly still in the ecosystem because Everglades National Park has given them some protected habitat. They are found mostly around the Florida coast but have been reported around the Gulf and up to Georgia.

Geoffrey Salanje followed with his experiences managing grey literature in Malawi. They will be using the Greenstone software to build a digital library.

Marcel Branneman was the final speaker of the conference and gave us the German experiences with Open Access and what the possibilities might be for all of us.

The final business meeting was a breeze with quick passage of the decision to enter into negotiations with IOC for a new MOU and agreement on wording for a scope note for the Aquatic Commons. Joan Parker then passed the gavel to Barb Butler. We bid farewell to Snowdy Dodson who has served as secretary and welcomed Jan Haspeslagh as President-elect and Peter Fitzler as new secretary.

Maria Kalenchits invited all of us to the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji for the 34<sup>th</sup> annual IAMSLIC conference, September 15-19, 2008. Hope to see you all there!